

BAR HARBOR CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES- REGULAR MEETING

11 JANUARY 2010

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm. Present were: Albert, Handel, Ocel, Weber, Watson and Krieg.

II. EXCUSED ABSENCES

Haskell and Wheeler were excused absences.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

As moved by Handel and seconded by Albert, the minutes of the December 14, 2009 meeting were accepted as presented.

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

As moved by Handel and seconded by Albert, the agenda was adopted as presented.

V. OLD BUSINESS

a. Solid Waste: Report from Jill – we were referred to Carla’s report from the last meeting. Jill reported that the Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) break-out group from the region-wide SWM Summit this fall is continuing to meet on an ad hoc basis, with representation from most area towns. The first meeting will be Wednesday 13 January 2010, with individuals from Tremont, Mt. Desert, Southwest Harbor and Bar Harbor attending (the Trenton representative is unable to attend).

ACTION PLAN: Cynthia Ocel and Jill Weber will attend this meeting and report back to us.

Discussion ensued on PAYT and recycling. The view was expressed by all that if we eventually accept a PAYT plan in Bar Harbor, we must have in place as complete as possible recycling capabilities. We discussed the importance of convergence of these two important issues and agreed to work on them in parallel. This is important and timely because the issues, especially PAYT, are in our work plan, as recently approved by the Town Council (5 January 2010).

ACTION PLAN: We will continue to address recycling education and PAYT together.

Albert reported on a discussion with Victor Horton, Maine Resource and Recovery:

Many towns in Maine are now operating under a PAYT plan with considerable financial success. One recent example is Corinna (in the Bangor metropolitan area) and we should consider close investigation of their plan as well as that of Ellsworth.

Also in this discussion, Albert learned that MRR will do a composter sale again this spring. The new price for the “Earth Machine” is \$38.50, which is \$1.00 more than the price when we last sold them two years ago, but still a great bargain. Also available will be the kitchen compost pails, the wing diggers, and rain barrels. Orders must be in by April 30 and the items will be delivered by early May. Once again, Vicki, at Salsbury Hardware, is eager to work with us. We agreed that this continues to be a worthwhile enterprise for us to undertake, as composting can vastly reduce household solid waste.

ACTION PLAN: Enoch Albert will coordinate efforts for sale of composters this spring.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. Staff Reports: Anne Krieg updated us on current Town Hill mini plan status and the recent meeting on 04 January 2010. This has presented an extremely difficult issue as the new shift on allowable square footage is not consistent with either the “existing scale” language originally proposed and used throughout the mini-plan, or with the Town Comprehensive Plan. Discussion ensued, particularly of the serious consequences of deviating from the Comprehensive Plan.

Anne K reported on an email from MEAC, stating that there is an effort to stimulate more towns to form active Conservation Commissions.

She explained the recent correspondence on the DEP Shoreland zoning policy (in our packets this week), which involves no action on our part.

There will be a workshop on ground water on 27 January 2010 sponsored by the Hancock County Planning Commission.

Anne K has submitted the budget proposal for the Conservation Commission.

b. Town Hill Mini-Plan: (for continuity and because Anne Krieg had to leave, this item was taken up slightly out of order from the original agenda) The ensuing discussion addressed a different set of concerns, namely plans for evaluation of ground water and feasibility for waste water treatment in Town Hill. Anne K noted that she has requested the funds necessary for ground water assessment and for the Northeast Creek model. Furthermore, because of these environmentally important issues, there will be no decrease in lot size. We further discussed impacts on critical rural and rural areas in Town Hill.

c. Council Update, December 15 and January 5: - Jill Weber reported on the unfolding of decisions regarding approval of our work plan and the inclusion of Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) in the work plan. The December 15 meeting had raised some issues because it was stated then that we should not work on PAYT because it had been tabled at a previous Council meeting in 2006; we were subsequently presented with the minutes of this meeting. However, an investigation ensued of the subsequent decision from a joint Warrant Committee – Town Council meeting (25 March 2008) that directed the Conservation Commission to work on PAYT. At the 5 January 2010 council meeting, some councilors spoke in favor of our work on PAYT. A motion was made to remove PAYT from our work plan, but it died for lack of a second, and the subsequent motion to approve our work plan as now stated was passed.

ACTION PLAN: We will continue to address PAYT on a monthly basis. This is timely both because it is in our work plan and because of regional interest and activity (see above).

Jill urged we all visit the relevant EPA site (EPA, then to PAYT)

d. Promotion of CFL Recycling: Cynthia Ocel and Jill Weber presented considerable information on this topic. They urged that we visit the Maine DEP site on CFL recycling. Cynthia has compiled a list of local places for CFL recycling and noted that in Maine, it is illegal to throw CFLs away. However, there is much lack of knowledge in the public about this, so we discussed the importance of our role in public education. Pat Watson has spoken to Rob Levin about this, who suggests that the Con Com write a Guest Column for the Islander. Cynthia noted that the EPA has many ideas for outreach, including the suggestion that health departments can participate. We considered the possibility that Health Acadia might want to partner with us on some outreach efforts; Enoch Albert is on their board and will broach the issue. Cynthia informed us that EPA gives grants for outreach efforts on CFL recycling, so we might consider applying.

ACTION PLAN: Cynthia Ocel will write a first draft of a guest column for the Islander, if possible by Monday 18 January 2010; this will be circulated among us for editing and then submitted.

ACTION PLAN: Enoch Albert will discuss CFL recycling education at a meeting of the Healthy Acadia board to assess feasibility of that group working with us on outreach efforts.

VII. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA (Monday 8 February 2010)

- a. Continue on CFL recycling
- b. Update on PAYT (Ocel and Weber report)
- c. Update on composter sale plans (Albert)
- d. We note the 2010 Dark Skies festival will be Sept. 9-12 (or 13), further update might be available

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

As moved by Handel and seconded by Ocel, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm

Submitted by Mary Ann Handel
12 January 2010